

was designed to protect the victims of involuntary servitude, sexual exploitation, forced labor and other forms of a contemporary slave trade.

Since the launch of the first Rescue & Restore city coalition in 2004, the rate of trafficking victims rescued has more than doubled over the previous reporting period—from 107 victims receiving certification letters, to 224. More victims are being identified every day. There are now more than 10,000 “boots on the ground” in 14 cities and trained advocates actively seeking out trafficking victims.

Today, June 7, a statewide Rescue & Restore coalition is set to be launched in Illinois in cooperation with the administration of Governor Rod Blagojevich. The Chicago rollout is a true watershed in the mission to locate, identify, rescue, and restore trafficking victims to a condition of human dignity. This is a statewide endeavor, the first of its kind, involving the full panoply of Illinois state and local government law enforcement and health and human welfare agencies working in a coalition with more than 60 nongovernmental and social welfare organizations, child advocates, and health care professionals mobilized to combat trafficking. Other coalition launches are planned for Long Island NY, Houston, and Los Angeles later this year for a total of 17 geographical regions to be served.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world today, affecting as many as 900,000 victims worldwide. The CIA estimates that as many as 17,500 men, women and children are brought into the U.S. annually by force, fraud or coercion as victims of human trafficking. Others are victimized right here in America, trafficked into prostitution or forced labor. Many of the victims are women or children who are forced into prostitution; others are pressed into labor slavery such as sweatshops, peonage, or domestic servitude.

Rescue & Restore coalition partners are using their existing channels of communication and growing public awareness to help Americans recognize the existence of human trafficking. They are educating their associates and constituents on how to identify and assist trafficking victims. We now have taken vital steps toward wiping the scourge of human trafficking from our shores.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2452. A communication from the Director, Office of Executive Secretariat, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Conforming Amendments to Implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2000” (RIN1076-AE54) received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2453. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Veterans Education: Non-payment of VA Educational Assistance to Fugitive Felons” (RIN2900-AL79) received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-2454. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, the Foundation’s Annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2455. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Testing for Rapid Detection of Adulteration of Food”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2456. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oregon State Plan; Final Approval Determination” (RIN1218-AC13) received on June 2, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2457. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs—Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers” received on June 1, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2458. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects—Knowledge Dissemination and Utilization Projects” (RIN1820-ZA36) received on June 1, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2459. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s annual reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, four issues of the Quarterly Journal of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) for calendar year 2003 and one for calendar year 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2460. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2461. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2462. A communication from the Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that funding for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a result of the record/near

record snow on January 22–23, 2005, has exceeded \$5,000,000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2463. A communication from the Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that funding for the State of Indiana as a result of the record/near record snow on December 21–23, 2004, has exceeded \$5,000,000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2464. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to the National Emergencies Act, a report relative to the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997 with respect to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2465. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Anti-Money Laundering Programs for Dealers in Precious Metals, Stones, or Jewels” (RIN1506-AA58) received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2466. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the country of origin and the sellers of uranium and uranium enrichment services purchased by owners and operators of U.S. nuclear power reactors for 2004; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2467. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines” (RIN1902-AC63) received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2468. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Amendment of Lower St. Johns River Manatee Refuge in Florida” (RIN1018-AU10) received on May 26, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2469. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to probable violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2470. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 714. A bill to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions (Rept. No. 109-76).